



# Legislative Update

## May 2008, Issue 2

Dismantling barriers affecting people with disabilities

### Dear Friends of Independent Living

We are pleased to declare the 2008 Legislative Session closed!

On behalf of the staff and members of the State Independent Living Council, thank you for doing your part to engage in the legislative process.

We deeply appreciate the emails, phone calls, and testimonies that streamed into the legislators. Your voice made a difference.

Thank you to Governor Otter and Idaho's Senators and Representatives who supported SILC priorities. Their support makes Idaho a great place for all Idahoans to live and work!

*Todd Devries*

*Kelly Buckland*

**Inside this Issue:**

[See how your legislator did this last session. Check out the Legislative scorecard!](#)

## **General Information:**

### **Address:**

816 Bannock St., Suite 201  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-9601

### **Phone:**

208-334-3800  
800-487-4866 (In Idaho)

### **Fax:**

208-334-3803

### **Website:**

[www.silc.idaho.gov](http://www.silc.idaho.gov)

### **E-mail:**

[silc@silc.idaho.gov](mailto:silc@silc.idaho.gov)

Todd DeVries, SILC Chair  
Kelly Buckland, Executive Director

### **Alternative Formats:**

Available by request.

Large print will be available only in Microsoft Word Format.

Please call 334-3800 or 1-800-487-4866 for more information.

### **Hang Ten on The Web:**

Find a wealth of up to the minute information on bills, processes, legislators, and more on the Idaho Legislature Home Page: **[www.legislature.idaho.gov](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov)**

## Ways to be a citizen lobbyist:

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper

Speak out and be visible

Donate money or time to organizations that advocate on your behalf

Copy this Legislative Update and pass it on

Contact your legislators

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARDS

How did your Senators and Representatives vote in terms of SILC legislative priorities contained in this Legislative Update? The percentage equals the total number of times the Legislator voted in-line with SILC priorities, as reflected in this update, divided by the total number of pieces of legislation contained in this update, that the Legislator voted on. PLEASE NOTE that this scorecard provides one tool for measuring a Legislators support. Other factors, including technical help in developing legislation and floor sponsorship of bills, must also be considered to gain the whole picture of an individual legislator's degree of support for the disability rights movement.

### LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD—SENATORS

SENATOR	FIRST NAME	CITY	DISTRICT	PARTY	% VOTES	GRADE
Andreason	John C	Boise	15	R	83	B
Bair	Steven R.	Boise	15	R	92	A
Bastian	Stan	Eagle	14	R	92	A
Bilyeu	Diane	Pocatello	29	D	90	A-
Broadsword	Joyce M.	Cocolalla	2	R	92	A
Burkett	Mike	Boise	19	D	83	B-
Cameron	Dean L.	Rupert	26	R	83	B

Coiner	Charles H.	Twin Falls	24	R	92	A
Corder	Tim	Mountain Home	22	R	83	B
Darrington	Denton	Declo	27	R	83	B
Davis	Bart M.	Idaho Falls	33	R	89	B+
Fulcher	Russell M.	Meridian	21	R	92	A
Gannon	Tom	Buhl	23	R	90	A-
Geddes	Robert L.	Soda Springs	31	R	92	A
Goedde	John W.	Coeur d'Alene	4	R	92	A
Hammond	James C	Post Falls	5	R	92	A
Heinrich	Leland	Cascade	8	R	92	A
Hill	Brent	Rexburg	34	R	92	A
Jorgenson	Michael	Hayden Lake	3	R	71	C-
Kelly	Kate	Boise	18	D	92	A
Keough	Shawn	Sandpoint	1	R	92	A
Langhorst	David	Boise	16	D	92	A
Little	Brad	Emmett	11	R	92	A
Lodge	Patti Anne	Huston	13	R	92	A
Malepeai	Edgar J.	Pocatello	30	D	92	A
McGee	John	Caldwell	10	R	92	A
McKague	Shirley	Meridian	20	R	92	A
McKenzie	Curt	Nampa	12	R	92	A
Pearce	Monty J.	New Plymouth	9	R	92	A

Richardson	Melvin M.	Idaho Falls	32	R	92	A
Schroeder	Gary J.	Moscow	6	R	92	A
Siddoway	Jeff C.	Terreton	35	R	92	A
Stegner	Joe	Lewiston	7	R	83	B
Stennett	Clint	Ketchum	25	D	92	A
Werk	Elliot	Boise	17	D	92	A

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD—REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE	FIRST NAME	CITY	DISTRICT	PARTY	% VOTES	GRADE
Anderson	Eric	Priest Lake	1	R	91	A-
Andrus	Ken	Lava Hot Springs	29	R	92	A
Barrett	Lenore Hardy	Challis	35	R	83	B
Bayer	Clifford R.	Boise	21	R	90	A-
Bedke	Scott	Oakley	27	R	91	A-
Bell	Maxine T.	Jerome	26	R	92	A
Bilbao	Carlos	Emmett	11	R	90	A-
Black	Max C.	Boise	15	R	90	A-
Block	Sharon L.	Twin Falls	24	R	91	A-
Bock	Les	Boise	16	D	92	A
Boe	Donna H.	Pocatello	30	D	92	A
Bolz	Darrell	Caldwell	10	R	92	A
Bowers	Curtis	Caldwell	10	R	92	A

Brackett	Bert	Rogerson	23	R	92	A
Bradford	Larry C.	Franklin	31	R	92	A
Chadderdon	Marge	Coeur d'Alene	4	R	92	A
Chavez	Liz	Lewiston	7	D	92	A
Chew	Susan B.	Boise	17	D	92	A
Clark	Jim	Hayden Lake	3	R	83	B
Collins	Gary E.	Nampa	12	R	92	A
Crane	Brent	Nampa	13	R	92	A
Denney	Lawerence	Midvale	9	R	90	A-
Durst	Branden J	Boise	18	D	92	A
Eskridge	George E.	Dover	1	R	92	A
Hagedorn	Marv	Meridian	20	R	92	A
Hart	Phil	Athol	3	R	83	B-
Harwood	"Dick"	St. Maries	2	R	70	C-
Henbest	Margaret	Boise	16	D	89	B+
Henderson	Frank N.	Post Falls	5	R	92	A
Jaquet	Wendy	Ketchum	25	D	92	A
Killen	Bill	Boise	17	D	92	A
King	Phylis K.	Boise	18	D	92	A
Kren	Steve	Nampa	13	R	91	A-
Labrador	Raul R.	Eagle	14	R	92	A

Lake	Dennis M.	Blackfoot	28	R	92	A
LeFavour	Nicole	Boise	19	D	83	B
Loertscher	Thomas F.	Iona	31	R	100	A+
Luker	Lynn M.	Boise	15	R	78	C+
Marriott	Jim	Blackfoot	28	R	92	A
Mathews	Russ	Idaho Falls	33	R	92	A
McGeachin	Janice K.	Idaho Falls	32	R	92	A
Mortimer	Dean M.	Idaho Falls	32	R	92	A
Moyle	Mike P.	Star	14	R	92	A
Nielsen	Pete	Mountain Home	22	R	100	A+
Nonini	Bob	Coeur d'Alene	5	R	92	A
Pasley-Stuart	Anne	Boise	19	D	92	A
Patrick	Jim	Twin Falls	23	R	92	A
Pence	Donna L.	Gooding	25	D	92	A
Raybould	Dell	Rexburg	34	R	90	A-
Ringo	Shirley G.	Moscow	6	D	82	B-
Roberts	Ken A.	McCall	8	R	92	A
Ruchti	James D.	Pocatello	29	D	91	A-
Rusche	John	Lewiston	7	D	92	A
Sayler	George C.	Coeur d'Alene	4	D	92	A
Schaefer	Robert E.	Nampa	12	R	91	A-

Shepherd	Mary Lou	Wallace	2	D	80	B-
Shepherd	Paul E.	Riggins	8	R	100	A+
Shirley	Mack G.	Rexburg	34	R	90	A-
Shively	Jerry	Idaho Falls	33	D	92	A
Smith	Elaine	Pocatello	30	D	92	A
Smith	Leon E.	Twin Falls	30	D	92	A
Snodgrass	Mark A.	Meridian	20	R	90	A-
Stevenson	John A.	Rupert	26	R	89	B+
Thayn	Steven P.	Emmett	11	R	92	A
Thomas	Diana	Weiser	9	R	92	A
Trail	Tom	Moscow	6	R	90	A-
Vander Woude	John	Nampa	21	R	92	A
Wills	"Rich"	Glenns Ferry	22	R	90	A-
Wood	Fred	Burley	27	R	91	A-
Wood	JoAn E.	Rigby	35	R	90	A-

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD—Congressional Delegation

Representatives: Bill Sali and Mike Simpson      Senators: Larry Craig and Mike Crapo.

National legislation regarding people with disabilities is continually reviewed by the SILC. On a national level, the National Council on Independent Living has been working with lawmakers in Washington D.C. to pass the ADA Restoration Act. Many lawmakers have signed on with their support for this very important act. Unfortunately, none of Idaho's Congressional members have signed on.



On March 13, 2008, Kelly Buckland, SILC Executive Director, testified to the need of increasing funding for independent living by \$100 million to the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee in Congress. For a synopsis of his speech go to [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org).

## **Veteran's Support Fund Created**

**Bill Number: HB349**

**Status: LAW**

**SILCs Position: Supported**

This bill provides a way for Idahoans who receive a tax refund to donate part of their refund for programs which support programs for Idaho veterans. This can be done by checking the charitable contributions box on their yearly tax forms. Idaho Veterans Services has become over-extended due to the aging of Idaho veterans from WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam. The SILC supported this legislation because the funds received will assist Idaho veterans with disabilities to live more independently within their respective communities.

## **Chronic Renal Disease**

**Bill Number: HB398**

**Status: LAW**

**SILCs Position: Supported**

This bill amends existing law to allow Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) to provide assistance to persons who have chronic renal disease to obtain other services including financial assistance for specified expenses. This legislation also allows IDVR to pay insurance premiums and travel costs to and from dialysis when needed. The SILC supported this bill because it will help persons with chronic renal disease receive dialysis while being gainfully employed.

## **Designation of Vote-By-Mail Precincts**

**Bill Number: HB402**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILCs Position: Opposed**

This bill amends existing law to provide that any precinct may be designated by the Board of County Commissioners as a vote-by-mail precinct. Currently, county commissioners may designate any precinct as “mail ballot precinct” if there are less than 125 registered electors. This bill would allow county clerks and commissioners to use an existing tool, designation of a precinct as a “mail ballot precinct”, to address these issues when necessary. It also allows a voting center within the precinct if desired. The SILC opposed this legislation because individuals with disabilities who cannot fill out a paper ballot would lose their ability to vote independently and privately.

## **Designation of Permanent Absentee Voter Status**

**Bill Number: HB413**

**Bill Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC’s Position: Supported**

This legislation would have given absentee voters the choice of applying for status as a permanent absentee voter in all elections for which they are qualified. The current procedure for making application as an absentee voter would not be altered except for an additional box on the ballot that can be marked indicating the voters desire to permanent absentee voter status. The voter would lose their permanent status as absentee voter upon their request, death, disqualification, cancellation of voter registration, or when a ballot is returned undeliverable. The SILC supported this legislation because it would have provided people with disabilities the choice of going to the polls or utilizing the absentee voter status. In addition to this, absentee voters could have changed their permanent status upon their request.

## **Vulnerable Adult Exploitation Definition**

**Bill Number: HB442**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

This legislation modifies Idaho Code to clarify that unjust or improper use of a vulnerable adult's financial power of attorney falls within the definition of exploitation because it is a misuse of a vulnerable adult's funds, property, or resources. Idaho's Adult Protection investigators and many private attorneys receive complaints involving such unjust or improper use of a financial power of attorney. Although misuse of vulnerable adult's financial power of attorney certainly qualifies as exploitation of the vulnerable adult, when these cases are reported to law enforcement and county prosecutors, they are often improperly characterized by law enforcement as civil matters not subject to criminal prosecution. This bill would allow these abuses to qualify as exploitation and be subject to criminal prosecution. The SILC supported this bill because it provides Idahoans with disabilities legal protection from abuse of their financial resources.

## **Group Residence Regulation**

**Bill Number: HB465**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Under Study**

This bill amends provisions of the Local Land Use Planning Act as it regards to group homes for individuals with disabilities which fall under the definition of "single family dwellings." Under this act these homes may be established without permits, variances, or other restrictions that would otherwise be imposed on a "single family dwelling." The state provisions are an offshoot of the Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) which includes alcohol and drug addiction in the definition of disability as of 1988. The FHA does include some exclusions. One exclusion specifically exempts from protection those "whose tenancy would otherwise constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others." Currently, Idaho law does not

contain this exclusion. This bill will add the federal exclusion to Idaho state law. The SILC is studying this legislation because it is purported to align Idaho's law with the Federal Fair Housing Act. This law would only apply to individuals under the supervision of the Corrections Department. The SILC will continue to monitor the implementation of this legislation.

## **Penalty for Crimes Against the Elderly/Disabled**

**Bill Number: HB517a**

**Status: LAW**

**SILCs Position: Supported**

This legislation provides additional protection to individuals who are elderly and individuals with disabilities under the Consumer Protection Act. In addition to remedies already available under this act, these individuals may recover from the offending party \$15,000 or triple the actual damages. To qualify for this enhanced penalty, the court must find that the offending party knew or should have known its conduct was against an individual who is elderly or an individual with a disability and that the conduct caused one of the damages listed in the legislation. The SILC supported this legislation for it provides additional protection from exploitation.

## **Income Tax Credit on Groceries**

**Bill Number: HB588**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

The income tax provided to Idahoans as an offset for the sales tax they pay on food consumed at home has not kept up with changes in the sales tax or rate of inflation. Current law fails to provide even this partial offset for the poorest Idahoans, since most are ineligible to receive the credit unless their incomes are high enough to owe state income taxes. This legislation addresses the inadequacies of the current law, by incrementally increasing this "food tax credit", starting with an increase to \$50 for the poorest Idahoans, \$30 for all other Idahoans, and an additional \$20 for seniors. This bill will help the poorest Idahoans

receive the credit even if they do not incur any tax liability. The SILC supported this bill because Idahoans with disabilities who live on a fixed income will receive the larger “food tax credit.” However, the SILC would like to see the taxes imposed on food completely removed.

## **Local Option Sales Tax**

**Bill Number: HB688**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC’s Position: Opposed**

This legislation provides authority to Idaho cities and counties to levy a local option sales and use tax in an amount between .10% and 1% on all taxable use and sales sold within a city or county in the same manner as provided by Idaho’s existing statewide sales and use tax. Cities and counties who levy such a tax may enter into cooperative agreements with the state of Idaho, and other authorities such as Regional Public Transportation Authorities. The SILC opposed this legislation because, in our opinion it would not have brought in any additional funding for public transit. This legislation was dependent on the constitutional amendment HJR4 passing which also failed in the 2008 legislative session.

## **City/County Sales Tax**

**Bill Number: HJR4**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC’s Position: Opposed**

This resolution was introduced in order to propose an amendment to the State of Idaho Constitution to authorize counties or cities to levy a sales and use tax in their jurisdictions. This resolution was intended to co-exist with HB688, the sales option tax to go towards funding public transportation or other highway projects. The SILC opposed this resolution, because, if passed, it would still require a two-thirds majority to impose any tax. Fiscally speaking, this resolution had the potential for putting a burden on the general fund. In the SILC’s opinion, there are already enough taxes imposed on Idahoans’ without adding any additional tax burdens

## **Conservators/Appointment Priority**

**Bill Number: SB1325**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

This bill amends existing law to revise the priority of who may be appointed conservator. The intent of this bill is to make the nomination status of a conservator clear. This bill allows the person nominated in a financial power of attorney to also serve as a conservator. This bill also clarifies various factual situations that may occur such as co-agents or multiple financial powers (for example a person might have both limited power of attorney for certain types of actions and a concurrent general power of attorney).

## **Guardian/Conservator Foreign Jurisdiction**

**Bill Number: SB1326**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

There are no Idaho statutes in place that regulate or provide guidance in regards to the transfer to or from Idaho, or temporary recognition in Idaho of foreign guardianships or conservatorships of individuals with developmental disabilities. There are regulations in place which regulate the transfer of foreign guardianships and conservatorships of people who are incapacitated. This bill attempts to incorporate existing Idaho code methods by cross referencing developmentally disabled code sections and assigning them to the appropriate existing code for other types of guardianships and conservatorships.

## **Guardian/Appointment and Duties**

**Bill Number: SB1327**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

Idaho law currently provides that a convicted felon should not be appointed guardian of a person who is incapacitated unless the court finds that such appointment is in the best interest of the person who is

incapacitated. Under current law, a convicted felon could reside at or frequent the residence of the proposed guardian, and thereby endanger the person who is considered incapacitated. This bill provides that the court visitor and guardian *ad litem*, as part of their investigation and written reports to the court, determines whether a convicted felon does in fact reside at or frequent the residence. Both are also given authority to conduct background checks.

## **Public Assistance/Asset Transfer**

**Bill Number: SB1331**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Under Study**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) is currently in negotiated rule-making and other rules for Medicaid. One existing rule which is being negotiated concerns whether transfers between husband/wife should, even offered at fair market value, be presumed to be for the purposes of sheltering assets for Medicaid, even if such transfer is for the purchase of an annuity. There will be no change in Medicaid procedures. This bill will allow the rule to be changed, but does not mandate it. These changes only apply to eligibility for Medicaid not estate recovery. The SILC plans to monitor the implementation of this legislation.

## **Execution of Self-Made Wills**

**Bill Number: SB1333**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

Amends existing law to provide certain exceptions to the executions of wills; and to provide for the execution, making, and attesting of self-proved wills. Last session, methods were instituted for signing and notarizing documents when the signer either was illiterate or was unable to physically sign. This bill incorporates this into the execution of a will. Both the execution of the will and the self-proving of a will (when the witnesses and the signer state under oath that the necessary requirements for proper execution of a will were met) are covered. This bill will have no fiscal impact.

## **Recovery of Public Assistance Payments**

**Bill Number: SB1340**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) currently investigates fraud in its public assistance programs by providers and applicants and addresses fraud and abuse through administrative remedies. This proposed change will provide the necessary changes to sanction Idaho Child Care Providers (ICCP) and applicants who commit fraud. This legislation will provide the necessary statutory authority for those sanctions which are already promulgated for regulations. The SILC supported this legislation because cutting back on fraud is fiscally sound and monies saved could be used to benefit more Idahoans with disabilities who may be eligible for public assistance.

## **Public Assistance/Fraud Control Program**

**Bill Number: SB1341**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

The Department of Health and Welfare operates a public assistance fraud investigation program to investigate applications for public assistance benefits and the Idaho Child Care Program and other vendors billing the programs for services. This does not include Medicaid providers who are investigated for fraud by the Certified Medicaid Fraud Unit in the Office of the Attorney General. This proposed legislation will provide the necessary authority for the Department to investigate applications in all of the public assistance programs of the Department and those areas not investigated by the Certified Medicaid Fraud Unit. The SILC supported this legislation because decreasing fraud will assist more Idahoans with disabilities to access services which are necessary to live independently.



## **Medical Assistance/Claim Settlement**

**Bill Number: SB1345**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC's Position: Opposed**

Amends existing law relating to medical assistance to provide for prior participation and expressed consent by the Department of Health and Welfare for certain claim settlements by a medical assistance recipient. It further provides that certain settlements or judgments give priority first to medical expenses incurred by the recipient in an amount equal to specified expenditures paid by the Department of Health and Welfare. The SILC opposed this legislation because it would give Medicaid priority in any proceeds from a personal injury action and would allow them to more or less to dictate the terms of a settlement of a claim when a person who receives Medicaid benefits is involved.

## **Pharmacy/Therapeutics Committee**

**Bill Number: SB1386**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

This proposed legislation creates a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee in the Office of the Director of Health and Welfare. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the governor, for the purpose of receiving evidence-based clinical information and making non-binding recommendations to the Director of Health and Welfare, concerning information of the prescription drug program within the Department of Health and Welfare. The committees' charge is to make objective evaluations of the relative safety, effectiveness, and clinical outcomes of specific drugs in comparison to other drugs in the same drug classes. Cost information relating to drugs will not be considered by the committee but may be considered by the director of the department. The SILC supported this legislation because it gives physicians the authority to prescribe medication without prior approval as long as the medication is a medical necessity and has been approved by the department in the past.

## **Building Code Amended**

**Bill Number: SB1396**

**Status: Died in Committee**

**SILC's Position: Opposed**

This legislation provided a revision to Idaho Code which would have given the Building Code Board the authority to amend the adopted building codes. This legislation would have also revised Idaho Code correcting references to specific editions of building codes already in effect in the State of Idaho. This bill was proposed in response to HB137 which was passed during the 2007 legislative session and changed the effective dates of the 2003 International Building Code and other codes to January 1, 2008 when in fact these codes were effective January 1, 2005. The SILC opposed this legislation because the Building Code Board could have made weakening amendments to the accessibility provisions of the building codes in Idaho without input from disability advocates.

## **Mental Illness Commitment Laws**

**Bill Number: SB1426a**

**Status: LAW**

**SILC's Position: Supported**

Amends and repeals existing law relating to the hospitalization of persons with mental illness. One major change includes definitions to the phrases “likely to injure themselves or others” and “gravely disabled.” The change permits a court to consider whether a proposed individual lacks insight into their need for treatment and is unable or unwilling to comply with treatment and that there is a substantial risk that they will continue to deteriorate to a point where they are not able to provide for their own needs and become “gravely disabled.” There are also changes to “Holding Proceedings and Abeyance,” and “Jurisdiction and Venue.” The Outpatient Commitment process will also change. The change will establish a new procedure that allows a court to consider an involuntary outpatient commitment rather than inpatient involuntary commitment which requires confinement to an appropriate psychiatric facility. The new language details the process for the court,

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under certain circumstances, to convert an outpatient commitment to an inpatient commitment. The SILC worked with disability advocates to draft and finalize amendments to this legislation. In the SILC's opinion, this legislation is still ambiguous because it is extremely difficult to evaluate a persons ability to understand their need for treatment.

## **IS MENTAL ILLNESS A CRIME?**

By Jim Liddell

SILC Resource Development Specialist

The Idaho legislature has approved \$70 million for the Idaho Department of Corrections to build a secure mental health facility, also called a prison - even by its proponents. The authority to do this was approved by the legislature through **HCR 58**. This appropriation will have a major impact on Idahoans with mental illness, who have not committed a crime. Idahoans with mental illness who have been involuntarily committed by the courts will be placed in a prison environment without committing a crime, even though mental health and disability advocates proposed a resolution known as **HCR 56** which states that there should be a separate facility for the treatment of individuals with mental illness who have not committed a crime. This resolution was held in committee by the chairman and denied a public hearing. The secure mental health facility should not have been a budget issue and should have received a hearing to allow the public to weigh in. As a person who lives with mental illness, this is a terrifying thought to know that people living with mental illness are, in essence, being convicted for the crime of mental illness! The question I keep asking is, when did mental illness become a crime? Many terms came forth to me as I followed this issue in the legislative session. Terms were used by certain individuals that made me shudder! I remember someone using the words perimeter fencing, criminal, and unfortunately, the word prison. The tone and intent of this legislation is derogatory and discriminating toward people with disabilities. For awhile, my thoughts made me wonder if indeed I was a criminal. However, people I know who live with mental illness did not ask for it or wish it upon themselves. Those are just the cards that have been dealt to them which,

as far as I am concerned is not a crime. Perhaps instead of imprisoning individuals with mental illness, others should realize that living with mental illness is not an exclusive club. Anyone can join this club at any time, even our lawmakers! Would any of us want to be treated as criminals just because we seek treatment for mental illness?

Mental illness should not be hidden in society by treating people as if they were criminals. The answer to living with mental illness is empowerment. Fulfilling one's purpose in life is the only way to live with mental illness. Would figures such as Winston Churchill and Albert Einstein, who both lived with mental illness, be forced to don orange coveralls and be forced to stay inside a fence or perimeter in order to receive treatment? The best treatment option for mental illness should be directed towards providing community services and removing the stigmas behind mental illness. Many people with mental illness in our society go to work, have a social life, and become contributing members in their community and do not wish to be imprisoned to receive treatment. Instead of becoming imprisoned with my mental illness, I will continue to advocate for responsive services in the community which do not strip the civil rights of individuals with mental illness.

Advocates, I encourage you to respond to this call to action to educate others so the stigmas regarding mental illness can be removed.

**In the interest of  
People with disabilities**

*Jim Liddell*

# DATES and EVENTS TO REMEMBER

COMING JANUARY 13-16TH, 2009  
TO THE  
BOISE CENTER ON THE GROVE

THE 2009  
STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON  
INDEPENDENT LIVING.

## **SILC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

Are open to the public and we welcome visitors. All meetings are located in Boise. Requests for alternative formats need to be made at least 14 (working) days in advance of the meeting.

**Friday, April 18, 2008**

Hampton Inn and Suites

**Friday, July 20, 2008**

AmeriTel Inn—Boise Spectrum

**Friday, October 19, 2008**

To Be Determined

## **NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD!**

*a movie in which the civil rights of people with disabilities were chronicled in relationship to equal rights in the employment arena.*

